



**Table 1-1**

**Selected Demographic Characteristics of Older Americans by Ethnicity—  
Age 65 and Over, U.S. Census, 2000**

Populations	Number 65+	Percent of 65+	In Poverty§	With Disability	Living Alone	Education***		Speak Little or No English**
						< 9 yrs.	college +	
Total Older Americans	34,991,753	100%	9.9%	41.9%	27.8%	16.7%	33.5%	4.0%
<b>Ethnic Categories</b>								
African American/ Black* (Non-Hispanic)	2,822,950	8.0%	22.2%	52.7%	29.0%	30.5%	20.6%	0.8%
American Indian*	138,439	0.4%	22.4%	57.8%	22.9%	36.5%	21.7%	10.6%
Asian Americans*	800,795	2.3%	11.9%	40.8%	12.9%	30.9%	34.0%	41.0%
Asian Indian	66,834		8.3%	42.1%	6.0%	31.6%	40.0%	35.4%
Cambodian	6,570		22.7%	62.3%	4.4%	73.7%	9.5%	79.7%
Chinese	235,995		15.7%	36.8%	14.0%	38.0%	33.3%	59.8%
Filipino	164,768		8.2%	47.1%	6.7%	29.4%	42.3%	22.6%
Hmong	4,698		27.4%	59.2%	5.1%	91.6%	3.0%	83.8%
Japanese	161,288		5.6%	33.0%	21.9%	11.3%	33.5%	10.7%
Korean	68,505		20.9%	40.0%	19.0%	31.7%	32.1%	63.9%
Laotian	6,106		18.0%	54.9%	3.8%	72.9%	7.3%	79.2%
Pakistani	4,804		12.7%	45.2%	2.6%	30.7%	38.9%	39.8%
Vietnamese	58,241		15.0%	54.2%	7.0%	30.7%	38.9%	73.5%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islanders*	20,821	<0.1%	9.8%	48.5%	12.7%	24.6%	23.5%	12.1%
White (Non-Hispanic)*	29,244,860	83.6%	7.4%	40.4%	28.6%	12.9%	35.8%	15.8%
Two or More Races	366,845	1.0%	16.5%	51.8%	25.5%	28.6%	28.3%	16.9%

**Developed by Wendy King, MS & Gwen Yeo, PhD for Institute of Medicine**

\* Alone (as opposed to in combination with other races)

\*\* Speaks English “not well” or “not at all”

\*\*\* Reported as “less than 9 years” and “some college no degree, associate degree, bachelor’s degree, or graduate or professional degree”

§ Income below poverty, 1999



Individuals who identify themselves as “Hispanic/Latino” or in one of the populations listed as “Ancestry categories” also identify themselves in one of the racial categories. **SEE PAGE 2.**

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary Files 1, 2, 3, & 4, Table also appears in commissioned paper *How will the U.S. Health Care System Respond to the Challenge of the Ethnogeriatric Imperative?* for the Institute of Medicine (IoM) by G. Yeo as background for the report *Retooling for an Aging America*. Paper available from [tharris@nas.edu](mailto:tharris@nas.edu).

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Table  
1-1Selected Demographic Characteristics of Older Americans by Ethnicity—  
Age 65 and Over, U.S. Census, 2000 (continued)

Populations	Number 65+	Percent of 65+	In Poverty§	With Disability	Living Alone	Education***		Speak Little or No English**
						< 9 yrs.	college +	
Total Older Americans	34,991,753	100%	9.9%	41.9%	27.8%	16.7%	33.5%	4.0%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	<b>1,733,591</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>38.4%</b>
Mexican	809,842		18.3%	48.5%	15.8%	59.0%	11.6%	35.1%
Cuban	228,677		19.8%	45.7%	19.7%	42.6%	23.1%	59.6%
Puerto Rican	191,295		23.2%	55.1%	25.5%	48.0%	15.1%	33.8%
Dominican	36,648		28.5%	51.2%	15.2%	66.8%	7.3%	69.6%
Central American	54,151		19.0%	44.6%	12.8%	53.0%	17.3%	55.5%
South American	76,791		15.7%	39.8%	15.0%	32.3%	26.3%	53.3%
<b>Ancestries</b>								
Arab	85,822		10.2%	40.1%	23.8%	16.9%	38.7%	15.8%
Armenian	57,922		10.2%	44.2%	23.9%	21.1%	36.7%	29.1%
Haitian	28,050		20.9%	44.7%	12.5%	36.9%	20.0%	51.5%
Russian	416,139		7.1%	36.3%	28.2%	5.5%	59.5%	7.9%
SubSaharan African	88,922		22.5%	50.0%	30.1%	31.3%	22.5%	6.7%
Ukrainian	154,057		11.2%	44.5%	31.0%	17.0%	36.1%	17.4%

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